



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

October 8, 2023

Pray & Worship

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:15 AM*;
Saturday at 8:15 AM*

Weekend: Saturday at 5:00 PM; Sunday at 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM* & 6:00 PM

*These Masses will be live-streamed on our Facebook
page ([https://www.facebook.com/
StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha)) and our website
(stephen.org/live-stream)

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open
from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday-Friday and from 10 AM
to 6 PM on Saturday-Sunday. The Adoration Chapel
is open 24/7; door access code: 9675*

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space

Contact Us

Parish Office:

Phone: (402) 896-9675
Emergency: (402) 896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at l.schulte@stephen.org.



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The stone that the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone."
- Mt 21:42ab

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

***"Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song
concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a
fertile hillside... What more was there to do for my
vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the
crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?"***



In the first reading this weekend, Isaiah's touching words are written as poetry. They portray God as a tender friend who lovingly cares for the vineyard. These words are deeply personal. Isaiah uses the word "friend" three times in the first three verses, which indicates God's deep love and affection for His people. The use of the "friend" image makes the betrayal in the final verses even more painful. Anyone who has ever been betrayed by a friend will understand the heartache that God experiences when His beloved people turn their backs on Him and the gifts that He provides for them. Despite all the tender care that God puts into building and tending the vineyard, the people respond by allowing the vineyard to become overgrown with thorns and thistles, and the harvest rots in the field.

During our lives God prepares us to bring forth good fruit from our labors but many times our sinful attitudes and behavior render our work and devotion fruitless. We should think of the vineyard as valuable property which provides abundance for all peoples—especially the poor. But this really hasn't happened, and the poor continue to be poor while the rich continue to grow richer. Isaiah teaches in this parable that God's response is to bring ruin to the once fertile vineyard as a punishment for Israel's sinfulness.

We must realize that God continues to build and care for His vineyard, and He gives the produce to us as a complete gift. In turn, He requires us to be responsible stewards of the gifts that He gives to us and to use those gifts to care for one another. But how often do we refuse to share what has been given to us because of our own selfishness and greed? How many people continue to go without food, clothing, and shelter in our community and in our world because we want to keep the wealth for ourselves? God's abundant life and friendship come to us in so many ways. It is up to us to care for the gifts of the vineyard. At the time of the harvest, God will ask each of us, "What grapes have you yielded from the fertile vineyard that I built and entrusted to you?" How will we answer?

***"Do not be afraid to refuse words, acts, and attitudes which are not in
conformity with Christian ideals. Be courageous in rejecting what destroys
your innocence or damages the freshness of your love of Christ."***
-Saint Pope John Paul II

God bless you,
Father Dave

Campus Closed Following 8:15 Mass on Tuesday, October 10th

On Oct. 10th the main electrical breaker for our campus will be replaced. There will be no confessions, school, religious ed classes, or Kidzone. The parish offices will also be closed. Thank you for understanding!



Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

The Rosary originated in the year 1216 when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic asking him to pray the Hail Mary, Our Father, and Glory Be prayers repetitively. It popularized and evolved over the next 300 years into the form we pray today. Our

Lady has asked the faithful to pray the rosary at many of her apparitions including in Portugal, Nicaragua, France, Rwanda, Japan and many others.

**Please pray the rosary this October,
the month of the Holy Rosary!**

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/sacraments.

Matrimony

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Fr. Zach Tucker at (402) 896-9675 ext. 2

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 9/26-10/2/23:

Actual:	\$55,511
Budget:	\$45,227
FYTD Actual:	\$599,016
FYTD Budget:	\$614,619

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 30

Thank you for your generous giving!

Your financial support is vital to the well-being of our church and school. To make a gift simply scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/give. Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



Stewardship Reflection

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone..." - Matthew 21:42

Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens, but he was still obedient to God, the Father. Similarly, living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be "rejected" by others, but we, too are called to be obedient. Saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is a sign that God is alive and well!

PAL BASKETBALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Open to all SSM 4-8th Grade
students & parishioners

Register by: Noon, Wednesday, Oct. 11th

Boys Tryouts: Oct. 15th & 22nd

Girls tryouts: TBD



Learn more at:
stephen.org/sports-club-basketball



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Olivia Marie Weller, daughter of Ryan and Sydney
Hazel Joy Gajewski, daughter of Joseph and Jennifer

School News

United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

- ⇒ **Fall Family Frolic:** Join us at Vala's Pumpkin Patch on Tuesday, October 10th from 11-4 PM for our annual Fall Family Frolic, hosted by St. Stephen the Martyr Home & School Association. Your family is responsible for admission at the door, no advanced ticket purchase is required. We have the Jack O' Lantern Party Barn reserved for a SSM meet-up space and we'll provide s'mores from 1-3 PM! Wear your SSM spirit or Martyr Marathon shirt, grab your friends and join us for lots of St. Stephen family fun!
- ⇒ **Used Uniform Closet:** A Used Uniform Closet is now available in the Gonderinger Parish Center storage closet. If you're in need of uniforms, please visit the closet Monday-Friday, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM. Racks and tubs have been setup with clothing prices noted. Payment for your selections can be made to SSM Home and School via the QR code posted on the racks. If you have any questions, please email Kristy at mrskristyengland@gmail.com or Amanda at amanda.r.reese@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **No Rel. Ed Tuesday, October 10th:** Due to building upgrades, there will be no classes on Tuesday, October 10th due to a planned power outage. Classes on Wednesday, October 11 will meet as scheduled.
- ⇒ **First Reconciliation Parent Meeting:** Parents of 2nd graders who will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in December will meet in the Worship Space on Sunday, October 15th at 4:00 pm. Please come to hear more about Reconciliation, receive your Parent/Child packet and other information. Please contact Sandy Kimmey, Director of Religious Education, at s.kimmey@stephen.org with questions or visit the Sacrament Preparation page of our website at stephen.org/sacraments.

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Better Together Tuesdays for Middle Schoolers:** Join us Tuesday, Oct. 17th from 7-8 PM in the St. Stephen Gym.
- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers:** Join us Oct. 11th for Bible Study & Discussion on "Diving into Scripture through The Crux study" at St. Stephen the Martyr. Join us the following week on Oct. 18th for "Be Real" Night at St. Wenceslaus.



A Community *for All*



This week you will receive a brochure in the mail introducing our “A Community for All” campaign.

We ask that you please review this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can help St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church by financially supporting our ministries, furthering our mission, and reinforcing our future.

Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church!

“AS A PARISH FAMILY, WE ARE CALLED TO RENEW AND DEEPEN OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS, SO THAT WE MAY COME TO KNOW HIM BETTER AND, IN TURN, PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL WITH LOVE TO ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY.”



October is **Respect Life Month**



Support Women & Families In Need

Most Needed Items:

Wipes & diapers (sizes: Newborn, 4, 5 and 6)

Drop-off Locations:

- Gathering Space or School Commons throughout October (place diapers in cribs)
- Stuff the Bus in front of the Parish Center on:
 - Sundays after Mass: Oct. 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
 - Fridays from 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM: Oct. 13th & 20th
 - Tues/Wed from 4-7 PM: Oct. 24th & 25th

Diapers will be distributed to: EPS, Mater Filius, Bethlehem House, Catholic Charities and Christ Child Institute.



Scan to Give
Online

PRAY

Saturdays in October

Join the Knights of Columbus every Saturday in October to pray the Rosary together as a community before 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space. We will follow the USCCB's meditations on the mysteries offered as a prayer for all life, from conception to natural death.



Oct. 14th: Rosary Rally

Join us at Noon on Oct. 14th for a Rosary Rally for Life, a public demonstration of our prayer and support of life from conception to natural death. Join us on the west lawn, along 168th Street.

Oct. 13th-21st: Respect Life Novena

Pray for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

For more details on all Respect Life Month activities, visit stephen.org/respect-life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 11

\$17 PER TUB

THE TUBS OF COOKIE DOUGH COME IN NINE VARIETIES - CHOCOLATE CHIP, OATMEAL RAISIN, PEANUT BUTTER, SUGAR, GINGER, MACADAMIA WHITE CHOCOLATE, LOW-FAT LEMON OATMEAL AND NEW THIS YEAR M&M AND OATMEAL BUTTERSCOTCH.

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E.SMITH@STEPHEN.ORG OR 402-896-5683



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: How can a priest counsel people about marriage when he has never been married?

Answer: If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not. Some of the skills necessary to help others do come out of personal life experience. But you don't need personal, first-hand experience in order to understand something. We would not think that a doctor, who is an oncologist, would not be able to treat cancer because he himself has never been sick. We also would not expect every doctor to treat cancer. It is the same with priests.

Essentially marriage is a relationship and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends, and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God. In many ways a priest's training, background, and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples and specially trained counselors, most parishes offer a very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage. ©LPi

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Oct. 11th at 9:15 AM | Parish Center

Gather, pray and make Prayer Shawls/Blankets to be given to persons experiencing a crisis in their life. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 11 AM in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact: Kathy Stodola at 402-981-1592. If you would like to help but can't knit, tie or crochet—this group is seeking donations of yarn, fleece, or JoAnns or Walmart gift cards. Donations can be dropped off to Colleen Eusterwiemann in the Parish Center.



Upcoming Events

Cards & Games: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday at 1 PM in the Parish Center. Everyone is welcome! Sign up for our emails at stephen.org/primetimers.

St. Stephen Choir Seeking New Members

Looking for a new ministry this fall? Come and join the St. Stephen the Martyr 10:30 AM Choir! We rehearse on Thursday nights at 7 PM for an hour in the Worship Space. There are no tryouts. If you would enjoy connecting with new friends and would like to share your vocal talents, give us a try! For more information, please contact Paula Bonkiewicz, Director of Music, at p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org.

Now Hiring



Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

St. Stephen the Martyr is seeking candidates for a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Are you or someone you know interested? Visit stephen.org/careers for the job description. Contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission, at 402-861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org.



Ladies Bunco Night

Women of St. Stephen are invited to Bunco Night on Oct. 19th from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. Bunco is hosted by the Council of Catholic Women every third **Thursday** of the month. Must be 21+; \$10/person. Questions? Contact Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196.

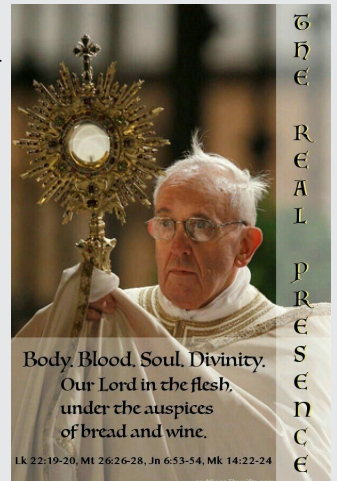
Adoration of the Holy Eucharist

Mondays, 7-8 PM | Worship Space

What do you do during Adoration?

Once you've decided to go to Eucharistic Adoration, the next common question to answer is what you should or can do while there. Catholics who attend for the first time feel at a loss regarding what they should be doing. Should you sit or kneel? Is it ok that one person is reading while another seems to be writing something in a notebook? Questions like these are normal. What matters is that you have the desire to deepen your walk with Jesus.

One of the most foundational things you can do is to "be there." Leave all of your fear about specifics at the door and simply be still. Pray from your heart, tell Him what made you happy or what upset you and then listen. You can write in a prayer journal, pray the rosary, or slowly read scripture. These are all acceptable actions to take to experience the blessing of Adoration of the Eucharist. Come, rest with Him in Adoration at anytime in the Adoration Chapel or during our weekly Adoration times.



Body, Blood, Soul, Divinity.
Our Lord in the flesh,
under the auspices
of bread and wine.

Lk 22:19-20, Mt 26:26-28, Jn 6:53-54, Mk 14:22-24

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)

Psalm:

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. (Is 5:7a)

Second Reading:

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)

Gospel:

"What will the owner of the vineyard do to those
tenants when he comes?"
They answered him,
"He will put those wretched men to a wretched
death
and lease his vineyard to other tenants." (Mt 21:41)

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Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's kingdom is open to anyone who will
produce its fruit. He offers it to every single one
of us. We must be ready to bring forward the
goodness of God into each and every day.

Observances for the week of October 8, 2023

- Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Columbus Day; St. Denis, Bishop, and
Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi,
Priest
- Wednesday:** St. John XXIII, Pope
- Saturday:** St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! Scan the QR Code if you
would like to register as a parishioner.



To learn more about ways you can get involved & grow closer
to Christ, contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or
a.ybarra@stephen.org.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 7

8:15 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, October 8

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (ZT)
9:00 am † Marian Brincks (DB)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Fernando Colon (DH)

Monday, October 9

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
8:15 am † Jeanne Wilson (ZT)

Tuesday, October 10

6:30 am † Janet Lee (ZT)
8:15 am † John Kratina (ZT)

Wednesday, October 11

6:30 am † Joann & Jim Stachura (ZT)
8:15 am † Matthew J Stoll (ZT)

Thursday, October 12

6:30 am † Joan Maier (AS)
8:15 am SI Priests & Seminarians of Nebraska/
Iowa (DH)

Friday, October 13

6:30 am SI Fabrice Todo & Farrel Aflagah (ZT)
8:15 am † Tina Szalewski (ZT)

Saturday, October 14

8:15 am † Michael Wais (ZT)
5:00 pm † Beth Devitt (DH)

Sunday, October 15

7:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (ZT)
9:00 am † Mary Miller (ZT)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)
6:00 pm † Gerald Fansler (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; ZT = Fr. Zach Tucker
DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman; AS = Fr. Andy Sohm

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change

*If you'd like to reserve a Mass intention, please contact
Melissa in the parish office at m.kane@stephen.org or
402-896-9675.*



Pray For...

*Deceased souls of our parish family:
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them*

LaVonna Appleby, mother of Linda Verzal

*Parishioners who are sick/injured/
healing:*

Jon Evans

Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
Dan Liles, husband of Lori, father of Cash and Jerzy
Gene Zywiec, Husband of Dee, father of Sherri
Ryan Huebner, son of Cheryl & Marty
Matt Kelly, son of Billie Watsabaugh
Ann Rush, wife of Jim, mother of Amy, Julie & Jason
Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

News from the Community

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS IN OCTOBER

The Archdiocese of Omaha is seeking to pray 50,000 rosaries to encourage young Catholics discerning priesthood and consecrated life. They are in a spiritual battle and need your help. How to participate: 1. Pray the Rosary 2. Log your rosary at Omahavocations.org. You can also Email rosary@archomaha.org or call 402-827-3749.

"CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME" FILM EVENT HOSTED AT ST. WENCESLAUS

Please join us for a screening of The Letter, a documentary based on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. The Letter is a film that challenges our spiritual values to take action regarding the planetary emergency. We are called to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The St. Wenceslaus Catholic Social Teaching Ministry is hosting the screening on October 22 from 1-3 PM in Cain Hall. We will reflect on the film, discuss, and consider how we can take action regarding climate change. Light refreshments will be provided. Hosted by St. Wenceslaus Catholic Social Teaching Ministry. For more information please contact Cara Hilgert, hilgertc@stwenceslaus.org.

GRATITUDE RETREAT OCTOBER 21

Take a day away this Fall to steep yourself in gratitude. Receive God's gracious gifts, cultivate grateful hearts, and share generous blessings in the beauty of God's Creation. Saturday October 21, 2023 from 9 AM-3:30PM. Check-in and fellowship begin at 8:30 AM. Takes place at Creighton University Retreat Center which is one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA. Facilitated by Retreat Leaders & Spiritual Directors Brenda Stalbaum and Martin & Kathy Kemler. \$60 includes lunch. To register email CURC@Creighton.edu or scan the QR.



SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

We need YOU in this important mission! Training will be offered for men and women desiring to help women through sidewalk advocacy or prayer support at local abortion facilities. This peaceful, Prayerful, law abiding approach has saved over 20,000 babies in 239 cities. Attend our training and see how you can be a part of our team. Saturday, October 14- 11:30 AM-6 PM Catholic Charities Building- 9223 Bedford Ave \$15 registration fee covers workbook & materials. For information or to register contact Sarah at sarahpsaflomaha2022@gmail.com.

West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

Immaculate Conception

13943 Dowd Drive | Boys Town, Nebraska | (531) 355-1030

Mass Times

Sun: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Daily: 11:40 a.m.

Confession

Tue and Thu: 11 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Stephen the Martyr

16701 S St, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675

Mass Times

Mon - Fri: 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Confession

Tue: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

or by appointment

St. Vincent de Paul

14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 496-7988

Mass Times

Mon - Fri: 6:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Confession

Sat: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Sun: 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

anytime by appointment

St. Wenceslaus

15353 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68154 | (402) 330-0305

Mass Times

Mon - Thu: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.

Sat: 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon and 5:30 p.m.

Confession

Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends

Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

anytime by appointment

SIP & SING MUSIC BINGO OCTOBER 20TH

Please help us raise funds for both the
Annual Fund and Dance Team!



EVENT DETAILS

Doors open at 7:00pm | Event begins at 7:30pm
Gross Catholic High School Gym

REGISTRATION

Table of Six \$350

Table of Eight \$450

Individual Ticket \$60

Appetizers and two drink tickets for each
participant are included with admission

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)



BEST
NIGHT
EVER



WEST OMAHA FAMILY OF PARISHES YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

VALA'S PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 13TH, FROM 5-10PM

Campfire Site 22 (by the Pavillion)

Smoers, pop, & some snacks provided. Bring
snacks or dessert if you wish! BYOB not allowed
- Vala's sells cider on site.

**Admission Tickets can be purchased online in
advance or at point of entry.**

CONTACT EVAN COLLINS WITH QUESTIONS:
E.COLLINS@STEPHEN.ORG

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calen.griffin@mutualofomaha.com

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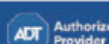
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